

packages include major bridges across Bhutahi Balan River and Kamala River, are targeted for completion by December, 2008.

(d) The four/six laning work of Muzaffarpur-Purnea Section of NH-57 (except Kosi Bridge) is targeted to be completed by December 2008 and the construction of Kosi Bridge including approaches is targeted by March 2010.

#### **Four laning of national highways**

†1755. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work from Jhanjharpur to Phoolparas to Narhia under NH-57 on East-West route to be constructed as four-lane road under National Highways Development Programme in Bihar has started, the progress of which is very slow and from the point of view of quality, the construction work is not being done according to the prescribed norms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The four laning of Jhanjharpur to Phoolparas to Narhia Section of NH-57 in Bihar under East West Corridor has already been started during March, 2006. In the beginning, pace of progress of work was slow as the contractor was facing difficulties in mobilizing resources. Supervision consultant has been engaged by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for supervising the quality of works in this project by conducting relevant tests and checks as per prescribed norms. Project Director also conducts regular inspection as well as periodic checks for ongoing projects to ensure quality of the works.

#### **Headgear for two wheeler riders in villages**

1756. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to legal anomaly in section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, persons living in the small villages,

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

where the chance of road accident is utmost nil, have to wear the headgear while driving or riding the two wheeler;

(b) whether Government are considering to modify the rules to make the village people free from the hardship of wearing the headgear;

(c) whether Government are considering to confer the power on State Government to make an exception; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides for mandatory wearing of helmet by the person driving or riding on a two wheeler in a public place except in case of a Sikh wearing turban. There is no legal anomaly in Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Wearing of helmet is a protection against head injury. Occurrence of accidents on rural roads can not be ruled out.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under Section 129 of the Act, State Governments are empowered to provide for such exemption as they may think fit.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

#### **Bypass in Kota on NH-12**

†1757. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan to construct bypass in Kota on the National Highway No. 12 has been approved by his Ministry and N.H.A.I.;

(b) the bottlenecks in implementation of this plan; and

(c) the programmes formulated to do away with these obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Feasibility of Kota bypass on National Highway (NH) 12 shall be examined

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.